In view of the comments of CAG contained in Report No. 7 of 1999 (Defence Services) the case stands referred to CBI on 20.4.2000 for independent investigation.

Delivery of shells from Russia

5491. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO:
DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to reply to Unstarred Question 621 given in Rajya Sabha on 1st March, 2000 and state:

(a) by when the shells are likely to be delivered; and

(b) what are the performance results of the testives made of the shells?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The complete consignment of shells has been delivered in April, 2000.

(b) The procurement was made after successful trial evaluation of shells in desert and mountainous terrain at an altitude of 4000 meters.

Appointments in Army Base Workshop

†5492. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of appointments have been made in Army Base Workshop during the last month and a lot of irregularities have been committed therein;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a number of such persons have also been appointed through these irregularities who are directly or indirectly related with ISI;

(c) whether Government have conducted any investigation in the matter and action taken thereon;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, as to why Government are taking indifferent attitude towards such a sensitive matter?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Recruitments have taken place in February, 2000, at Army Base Workshop, Delhi Cantonment. A court case alleging malpractice in the recruitment, has been filed by some candidates.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) In the court case, the petitioners have alleged that some recruits are linked with persons connected with ISI activities.

(c) Army Headquarters and police authorities have been asked to investigate into the matter.

(d) and (e) The reports from Army Headquarters and police authorities are awaited. Appropriate follow up action will be taken after receipt of the reports.

Former DRDO Chief Joining US Defence Research Programme

5493. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that former DRDO Chief and Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister joined an American University on retirement which is involved in the US defence research programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether he was required to seek permission from Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and conditions, if any?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d) Dr. V.S. Arunachalam, the former Scientific Adviser to Defence Minister and subsequently the Director General, Aeronautical Development Agency was granted permission to go on extra-ordinary leave to pursue scientific research and to accept assignment as a Distinguished Services Professor at Carnegie Mellon University, USA. He continued in the same university after his retirement. The Government are not aware of involvement of Carnegie Mellon University, USA in any US defence research programme.

Output of Ordnance Factories

5494. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the normal output of the Ordnance factories of the country; and

(b) whether it has been increased after the Kargil war?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b) The output of Ordnance Factories is mainly dependent on the requirement projected by Armed Forces. During Kargil operation enhanced requirement of certain items was projected by the Army.